AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On **page 1, line 1,** delete the Title of the Invention:

~~Method and System for Processing Data Packets~~

and replace it with the following:

Method and System for Preserving the Order of Data Packets Processed Along Different Processing Paths

On **page 1, line 2,** insert **Field of the Invention**.

On **page 1, line 6,** insert **Background of the Invention**.

On **page 2, line 10,** insert **Summary of the Invention**.

From **page 3, line 32 through page 4, line 8,** amend the paragraph [0009] as set forth below:

In a ~~particualrly~~ <u>particularly</u> preferred embodiment of the invention, a sync signal is produced if a slow data packet is followed by a fast data packet. The sync signal is put in the slower processing path. Once the sync signal has reached the head of the processing queue in the slower path and no other packets are being processed in the slower path anymore, a ready signal is generated. When the ready signal is generated, the stored fast processed data packets are given out. Using a sync signal which is processed in the slow path has the advantage that an in-time ready signal is provided which indicates that the last slow data packet has been processed and the fast processed data packets could be given out to get a data stream at the output with the same packet order as before the processing.

On page 5, line 3, insert **Brief Description of the Drawings**.

On page 5, line 31, insert **Detailed Description of the Invention**.